

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 02115 220759Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 MCT-01 /095 W
-----014613 231149Z /14

R 130936Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 992
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: SECURITY POLICE DETAIN ONE OF SIX ACQUITTED IN
PRETORIA ANC TRIAL

REFERENCE: PRETORIA 1935

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE SECURITY POLICE
DETAINED ELIAS TIEHO MASINGA, (24) ON APRIL 12. MASINGA, PREV-
IOUSLY A MEMBER OF THE NOW BANNED SOWETO STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL (SSRC) AND SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENT MOVEMENT, WAS ONE
OF THE SIX ACCUSED FOUND NOT GUILTY ON APRIL 5 IN PRETORIA'S
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) TERRORISM ACT TRIAL. AN
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UNIDENTIFIED RELATIVE TOLD THE PRESS THAT AT 0200 IN THE
MORNING "THE POLICE, IN PLAIN CLOTHES, CAME INTO THE
HOUSE AND DEMANDED TO SEE ELIAS. AFTER SEARCHING THE
HOUSE, THEY TOLD US THAT THEY WERE TAKING HIM TO JOHN
VORSTER SQUARE WHERE HE WAS TO BE DETAINED UNDER SECTION
SIX (OF THE TERRORISM ACT)."

2. ACCORDING TO INDICTMENT SHEET FOR MASINGA'S RECENT PRETORIA ANC TRIAL, MASINGA WAS CHARGED WITH UNDERGOING MILITARY TRAINING, INFILTRATING THE SSRG ON BEHALF OF THE ANC, AND RECRUITING THREE PEOPLE, MAFISON MOROBE, ROBERT BILLY MASETHLA AND SUPER MOLOI TO JOIN THE ANC AND UNDERGO MILITARY TRAINING IN SWAZILAND. MOROBE, MASETHLA AND MOLOI, DETAINED UNDER SECTION 6 OF THE TERRORISM ACT, REFUSED TO TESTIFY FOR THE STATE DURING THE PRETORIA ANC TRIAL AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY DETAINED FOR SIX MONTHS (AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 185 OF THE NEW CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ACT). ACCORDING TO A PREVIOUS PRESS REPORT, MOROBE, MASETHLA AND MOLOI WERE DETAINED AGAIN UNDER SECTION 6 OF THE TERRORISM ACT DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 3 AFTER SERVING SIX MONTHS FOR NOT TESTIFYING AT TRIAL.

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3. COMMENT: DESPITE THE FACT THAT MASINGA WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY AS CHARGED, THE STATE MAY INTEND EITHER CHARGING HIM AGAIN, OR USING HIM AS A WITNESS AGAINST THE THREE ALLEGED ANC RECRUITEES. OF THE REMAINING FIVE FORMER ACCUSED FOUND NOT GUILTY, JOE NZINGO GQABI, ACQUITTED ON CHARGES OF UNDERGOING MILITARY TRAINING IN CHINA AND LEADING THE ANC ORGANIZATION IN JOHANNESBURG, ALSO HAD CONTACT WITH MOROBE, MASETHLA AND MOLOI. IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SECURITY POLICE DECIDE TO DETAIN MORE OF THE FORMER ANC ACCUSED, GQABI MAY BE NEXT ON THEIR LIST.
BOWDLER

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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